New P & T Offices in Assam

1225. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed for opening of new posts and telegraph offices in Assam during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The details of targets fixed for opening of new posts and telegraph offices in Assam during 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002 are given in the Statement *{See* below). Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to the availability of resources including sanction of required posts by the Government for this purpose.

Statement

Details of Target Fixed for opening of new posts and Telegraph Offices in Assam during 2000-2001 *and* 2001 -2002 *and steps taken in this regard*

Year	Target fixed for opening new post offices	New post offices opened
2000-2001	33	Fully achieved
2001-2002	37	11 new post offices already approved for opening.

With the expansion of Telecom Network throughout the country and introduction of STD and FAX facilities, the demand for telegraph is reducing. Therefore, no specific targets have been fixed. The telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification.

New **sugar factories in Karnataka**

1226. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests pending with Government for approval of new sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) whether any such request has been received from the Karnataka Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The sugar industry has been de-licensed with effect from 11.09.1998. The entrepreneurs are now free to set up new sugar factories according to techno economic feasibility of their projects maintaining a radial distance of 15 Kms. from the existing sugar factories. As such, no request or proposal is required to be sent by any entrepreneur/State Government for approval of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.

Allotment of additional rice for drought affected people in A.P.

1227. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have demanded for allotment of an additional three lakh metric tonnes of rice for drought affected people; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh special additional allocation of 4,95,560 tonnes of rice for two months (2,45,280 tonnes of rice per months) has been made to the State Government at rates applicable to the families below poverty line (BPL) for distribution to the drought affected families @ 20 Kg per family per month.

Procurement of Foodgrains

† 1228. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of foodgrains procured upto the 31st March, 2001 has since been calculated by Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.